OUR MAIL POUCH.

A Davis Cryptogram.

The accompanying cipher by a rebel rule-of three on the name Jefferson Davis is respect

fully submitted for publication by an

ures Dixie's heart X, and "sixth" the death date of Davis and find its Euglish letter value

PITTEBURG, December 21.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

It is probably a fact that most geologists know but little about the production of oil;

but that our own Peter Lesley did locate four of those synclinal and anticlinal axes, of which four are located in Butler county, we cannot

deny. He designates them as follows: The Brady's Hend, Millerstown, Martineburg and

Harrisville, running nearly north 42% east, or south 42% west. The last named is located

in the extreme northwestern part of Butler county, passing through Lawrence and Beaver

counties and connecting the Smith's Ferry or Hookstown district with the old Bullion dis-

those who go nosing around away in advance of any development, until some one of them happens to drop down in oil producing strata; it is then that the rich producers rush in and reap the reward that should fall to the lot of the poor fellow who struck the lead.

EVANS CITY, December 20.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

The gift of Sir Edward Guinness, mentioned

under the above heading in The Disparch of

December 19, is an excellent project, but the example set is of even greater value. It is a

strange fact that rich men who owe their for-tunes to their own exertions, supply almost all the instances of munificent giving; while those who have inherited fortunes have for some

reason been wanting.

That absolutely nothing can be done to make

lives more human, so long as people are doomed to live in the degrading environment

domed to live in the degrading environment of filthy slums, is the opinion of all practical philanthropists. Therefore a scheme to provide cleanly, healthy houses, to be maintained on a self-supporting basis with reinvestment of rents for the furtherance of the object, must help to solve one of the most pressing questions of civilization, and may furnish the elementary conditions necessary for the social redemption of the masses.

Mr. Penbody expended \$1,250,000 in the same good work, and is cannot be denied that he has made life more healthy, more decent and more human for thousands of British artisans. But the Peabody buildings have been too expensive for the unexilled workman and casual laborer, and for this reason Sir Edward has made it a condition that the dwellings shall be for the "laboring poor," believing that his object can be accomplished and the tenements let at such rents as will place them within the

ject can be accomplished and the tenements set at such rents as will place them within the reach of the powrest of the laboring population.

The experiment will be watched with symputhesic interest, and it is to be hoped that not only the present but future generations will bless their benefactor in his attempt to make home life homely and happy.

C. W. R.

In your issue of Monday I see two articles

reference to the strike now in progress on the Monongahela river. The first is from a miner.

bless their benefactor in his att home life homely and happy. WALSTON, PA., December 20.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

To the Editor of The Dispat

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#### TERMS OF THE DISPATCH.

POSTAGE FREE IN THE UNITED STATES. SUNDAY DISPATCH, One Year ...... WEEKLY DISPATCH, One Year ..... THE DAILY DISPATCH IS delivered by carriers at

PITTSBURG, MONDAY, DEC, 23, 1889. QUELLING A PANIC.

The narrow escape from a panic at the dedication of a Catholic church at Chartiers yesterday, must be credited to the presence of mind and authority of those who restored the frightened people to their

seats and continue with the services, The incident shows how senseless panies usually are. Even with a more tangible cause for fright than was present at the Johnstown disaster, the sole danger of this audience was from its own loss of reason. With the fright quelled the danger was past. Even where there is real danger the outbreak of panic only aggravates it, both by the reckless trampling and by the delay which it is sure to produce in the attempt to

This danger was happily averted in this case; but there seems to be reason for a searching investigation as to who is responsible for a building of a kind which lets

REAVER VALLEY AND THE CANAL. "

ject to the industries of that thriving locality. It is probable that the crowded locality. It is probable that the crowded stay its progress.

But there is an opposition to the general Morton, and other ladies of the Administration, condition of the river banks at New but that feature has its compensation in the and lakes.

Popular crazes are rarely tempered with any noticeable degree of discretion or good judgment, but the prevailing one is so the men who live on politics. superior to any alloy of these qualities as to be somewhat remarkable. We refer to the superstition which has gained a universal, and, let us hope, a fleeting sway, that to make any remark which introduces the Hibernian name of McGinty, is uproariously

McGinty has eclipsed the obnoxious Tom Collins of a dozen years ago, in ubiquity Collins of a dozen years ago, in ubiquity titled. West Virginia is an illustration of the and irrelevance. The original variety song surest way to wreck popular Government. which gave him fame may be humorous, although the taste for wit of the audiences which first approved of it is not to be implicitly relied on. But if any one can discover the element of humor in the catches such as to wish it would rain, "in order to wash the dust off McGinty," or to do as a crowd at a magic lantern performance the other day, is reported to have done, simply resort to a shout for "McGinty, McGinty," he deserves a medal for his talent at perceiving what does not exist. So when an esteemed New York cotemporary took the trouble to send a reporter around to interview all the actual McGintys of the metropolis, it requires a keen sense of humor

to perceive the humor of it. If McGinty really is at the bottom of the ses, a great many people will be able to improve their characters for wit, by letting him rest there.

#### THE PRIME OBJECT One of the striking features of collegiate

athletics brought to public notice by the controversy over the strained relations of Harvard and Princeton, concerning the great inter-collegisto issue of football, is the fact that scholarships have been offered by one of those institutions as an inducement to desirable men for members of the football team. This is a striking indication of the modern view of the purpose of educational endowments. Scholarships were originally intended to help young men to classical educations. Now it appears they are used to qualify them for winning glory upon the stricken fields, where the possession of a bag of wind is the prize fought for. The advance of athletic sports from their true position as relaxation to that of a prime object in life is a remarkable feature of the day.

A BEAR MARKET ON TITLES. It seems, secording to the latest reports from Paris, that Miss Caldwell and Prince Murat have come to terms. The princely wooer has made a strenuous effort to obtain the fanciest of prices for himself; but owing to the absence of competition in the prince market, he has been compelled to come down to the price of the sole buyer. On the other hand the lady was in the market for actual purchase. She is not buying for speculation; but will take her title out of the market for actual consumption. Therefore it is fair to conclude that the market value of a not at all ancient title, encumbered with a rather disreputable incumbent,

is about \$10,000 a year and found. The entire transaction bears a strong resemblance to what travelers tell us of the manner in which shopping is conducted in the East. You inspect an article in the barners of Constantinople, and on asking the price are told that it is a hundred pastres. You contemptuously offer ten piastres; whereat the merchant an atches the article from you, only to offer it to you at ninety, just as you are turning away. The operation is repeated, with a reduction of the price to eighty, seventy and so on down until you finally raise your bid to fifteen, and the merchant lets you have it, protesting that he is ruined. On taking your purchase home and submitting it to experts you find that you have got something, the market price of which is about half what you have

This sort of chaffering is generally considered ridiculous by Occidental civilization; but since it has been indulged in by a representative of French aristocracy and an rlean beiress, it cannot longer be laughed at. It has enabled Miss Caldwell to buy her prince at her own terms; and

upon inspecting her purchase in the leisure of her home life, she will discover that whatever she paid for him, he is not worth it.

THE ANTHRACITE SHUTDOWN.

The shutdown of the anthracite coal mines, which goes into effect to-day, may be largely charged to the combination policy. It is probably true that the open winter has lessened the demand for authracite coal and accumulated surplus stocks at the present prices. But the same causes affect the bituminous mines of this section just as much, and the difference between competitive business and the combination policy is shown by the fact that our river mines have just started up after conceding the miners an advance in wages.

The inference is, therefore, that the shutdown in the anthracite regions, by which 25,000 men will be thrown idle in the middle of winter, is a resort to the old method operators may be rescued from the disagreeable necessity of stimulating production by narrowing their margins for profit, and the anthracite coal roads from reducing their senses and induced them to resume their rates so as to squeeze the water out of their stocks.

Such a course of commerce is not within the ethics of legitimate trade, which regulates every act to secure the greatest advantage to all parties. It is according to the ethics of oppression, which operates to bur-den the public in order to secure the greatest profits to a favored class.

#### BALLOT REFORM COMING.

It is generally agreed by both parties where the Australian system of voting has where the Australian system of voting has been fried that it contributes materially to the honesty and purity of elections. This kind of ballot reform has now passed be
Bros. are back of the scheme, it is said. kind of ballot reform has now passed bethe floor of a new church settle four inches | youd the experimental stage, and there is the first time it is crowded by a large congre- more or less consideration of its extension over the whole country. Some such reform has been rendered necessary by the bribery and corruption which of a certainty pre-Our correspondence on the ship canal vailed in many places at the last Presidenproject, in this issue, deals with the en- tal election. The people are eager to hear gineering difficulties presented in the more of the Australian system, and a great Beaver Valley, and the relation of the pro- many politicians appear to have discovered

But there is an opposition to the general Brighton and Beaver Falls would make adoption of the Australian system of voting, that the most expensive section of the canal; the inspiration of which would seem to cle, contesting Darwin's theory on evolution. come from a combination of corporate and recognition by the business men there, of moss-back political interests. From one dithe importance of the project, and their rection we find the complaint arising that willingness to give it reasonable aid in the Democratic party suffered wherever the don's slums with great force and vivacity. Dr. securing the rights of way. The Beaver new system of voting was used. This is Talmage and Marion White contribute an in-Valley is an important manufacturing not true in the first place, and, if it were, a teresting tale entitled. "Christmas Thrice with locality now, but its magnitude would be party unable to comply with the rudimental immensely enhanced by opening a free requirements of the new ballot law, as apwaterway through it, connecting the rivers plied in Massachusetts, ought to suffer. It will be for the good of all parties and all voters to have clean, honestly conducted elections, and any reform which assists in insuring this most desirable result will find favor with the people generally, if not with

UNDER the interposition of other, and possibly more important, political events, it has nearly been forgotten that the nation is as far as ever from finding out who was elected as Governor of West Virginia, Governor Wilson, whose term expired nearly a year ago, and Governor Fleming are each trying to get the place to which only one of them is en-

THE direct tax refunding bill is announced to be slated for an early passage in this Congress. This will reduce the surplus if passed, but it will also make Mr. Oates get up and howl in a way that may scare the measure

MR. KEELEY has again been explaining to a gathering of his Philadelphia friends that his motor will mote. The fact that he said so ten years ago, might be held to discredit his a sertion now in another city. But the Philadel phis idea regards it as quite proper that it should require fifteen or twenty years more to get up a mere motor.

MR. MCKINLEY is reported to be ambitious of reporting the shortest tariff revision bill on record. If he succeeds in making the shortest debate on the tariff, as well, the nation will forgive him.

THE young woman of Huntington, W: Va., who deluged her recreant lover with a kettle of boiling water has possibly furnished him with a valid excuse for failing to come to time and marry her. The promise of hot water in married life, furnished by this act, is too tangible for a cautious man to ignore.

THE killing of deer within ten miles of the city, which was probably a stray from the wilds of Clarion county, is an unusual occurrence of sufficient interest to condone a fracture of the game laws.

the movement: when someon the movement is negarded as the prime mover in the sugarded as the prime mover in the Nary he ordered an exploration of some river in the Northwest possessing an outlandish name. One Clark was at that time chief of the Treasury.

packing his heart with sarcasms at the expense of the President. The outspokenness of the statesmen who have not got the offices they wanted is something phenomenal. Who re-marked that the possession of patronage strengthens a party?

THE two weeks' vacation for the Congress men give our legislators a chance to enjoy a long holiday before they have done any work worth mentioning.

SENATOR CHANDLER and the Hon. John R. Thomas are determined to crush each nurse of the new navy. If their fight has the same outcome as the battle of the Kilkenny cats, the navy may congratulate itself on its good fortune.

STILL the Weather Bureau fails in its efforts to give us cold wave enough to relieve us of the fear of a green Christmas.

form society so as to make women independent of men for their means of support. The titled husbands of American heiresses will not object provided he does not disturb the dependence of husbands on the fortunes of their rich

## NEARLY ALL CAN GO HOME.

A Long Holiday Recess Warmly Welcomed by Congressmen.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT. WASHINGTON, December 22.—The long recess from December 21 to January 6, one of the longest holiday recesses on record, has given opportunity for Congressmen living at a distance to go home and remain there for both Christmas and New Year's turkey, and a

families. A very quiet holiday season is expected, which will be somewhat heightened in duliness by the mourning gloom which pervades the Executive Mansion, and which will make the New Year reception, usually the one really brilliant affair of the holidays, as subbrilliant amair of the boltdays, as subdued and formal as possible. Hundreds
of the accustomed crowd of that
day will remain away, either because
Mrs. Harrison will not be seen, out of respect
for her mourning, and as the White. House atmosphere affects sectety at large, boilday festivities in general, like political and legislative
affairs, are expected to be very tame compared
with other recent years. A GRAND NUMBER.

Yesterday's Twenty-Page Dispatch Mes Excellent in Every Way. THE DISPATCH yesterday gave its readers 20 pages of amusing, interesting and instructive reading matter. It was an intellectual reast from which no one could arise hungry, inasmuch as the tastes and likings of all were con-

sidered and gratified. plague which rages across the water. The most exalted persons are sufferers, and even the great Kaiser is not exempt. The London Globe warns England to treat Canada gently. A great reception at Albert Hall, London, has been prepared for Stanley and Emin Pasha, been prepared for Stanley and Emin Pasha,
One of the American dynamiters in Chatham
jail very nearly effected his secape. Young
Abraham Lincoln is pronounced out of danger,
A rising in Portugal is looked ferward to,
Lord Salisbury still maintains his position in
regard to that kingdom.
It is said that Calvin Brica will be barred

dle of winter, is a resort to the old method of restricting production in order to maintain high prices for coal. The Christmas gitt of the combined corporations to the public is idleness and cessation of wages for the miners, and high-priced fuel for the workers of the East, in order that the coal operators may be rescued from the disagreeopinion in the Cronm case. He holds that Longenecker was a great deal too officious. Another Yale freshman has been led into matrimony by one of the college widows. A Chinaman in Manitoba was soundly flogged for his sins. Ex-President Cleveland addressed the Cornell University Club with wit and elo-

> Quite an amount of information has been gathered by THE DISPATCH anent the rumored Pennsylvania Railroad deal in Cherry alley property. A number of candidates for the suburban postoffices are out on the war path. Plucky Officer John Reach succeeded in arresting a notorious tough after a flerce fight. The Fidelity Title and Trust Company, as assignee, proposes to make debtors of the Lawrence Bank hustle. Postmaster McKean

Pringle's usual weekly review of sports is very complete, The champion pedestrians in Pitusburg are now ready for the big 74-hour contest. The Brotherhood has succeeded in gaining a charter, after a hot legal fight. Other sporting news and much gossip also appear.

Christmas under other skies is treated by E S. Skidelsky, Kelly, and others. An excellent article on the Chinese frontier is from the pen furnish menus for Christmas dinners, Pro-Yule Tide customs are described by F. S. Bas-sett. An article on the latest New York "fash-ionable charity" crase is contributed by Clara Belle. Hon. Henry Hall tells his story of Lonthe Hawsleys." The continuation of "Joshua," as well as articles by William Edwards, Mrs General Custer, Bessie Bramble, James C. Purdy, Edward Wakefield, Bumbalo, Red Bird, Log, Rev. George Hodges, and the usual children's story by Heinrichs, are some other noticeable features of the second and third parts of this great paper.

### PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

QUEEN VICTORIA admires American oysters. A dozen barrels were shipped to her the other

Browson Howann the playwright, is going to Europe at once. He may be absent two or COUNT THOMAS A. EDISON SAYS that he still cares more for business orders than for

foreign decorations. MRS GROVER CLEVELAND is very fond of French literature. She spends a great deal of time in reading Parisian novelists in the orig-

anxious to have the United States recognize the Republic of Brazil, is a distant relative of the late ex-Governor Morgan, of this State. SAYS Henry Labouchere in London Truth: "Of all the living Emperors, now that Dom Pedro has been retired from the business, the Emperor of Austria is the best. He is a decent, well-meaning man, whose chief merit is that he has shared power with his subjects and quieted Hungary by giving it home rule." At the same

THE late Sir Percy Shelley, son of the creat poet, was an eccentric creature. Once be asked a well-known English litterateur to visit him and promised to show him something of interst. The man of letters expected a sight of the poet Shelley's manuscripts, and was disappointed to find that the Baronet wished him to examine a new method of producing stage thunder he had invented.

## MILK IN THE COCOANUT.

Why an Applicant for Reappointment Was Fought Bitterly.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.] WASHINGTON, December 22-In regard to the proposed transfer of the revenue marine to the Nanwy Department, the details of which were given in these dispatches a few days ago, the following story is given in explanation of the movement: When Senator Chandler, who name. One Clark was at that time chief of the revenue marine division of the Treasury, and hearing of Mr. Chandler's intention he wired instructions to the Captain of a revenue cutter then stationed on the Pacific coast, to proceed at once to make the same exploration. Just why Clark did this no one ever knew, but it made Chandler hopping mad. Some time afterward it was proposed to transfer the revenue cutter service. knew, but it made Chardler hopping mad. Some time afterward it was proposed to transfer the revenue cutter service to the Navy Department, and in a report on the subject, Clark was very severe in his comments. Among other things, he said that the revenue service was a police service, to protect the Government from loss through the operations of smugglers, and that as the average naval officer was a smuggler, it was manifestly improper to place the revenue service under the charge of naval officers. This report added fuel, and the mauguration of a war to abolish the present system resulted.

I do not wouch for the truth of this story, but the determined opposition to Clark, who recently applied for appointment to his old position in the Treasury, and who was strongly supported by Senator Sherman and other distinguished gentlemen, would seem to lend a plausible air to the narrative. ble air to the narrative.

## DEATHS OF A DAY.

Hon. Orsamus B. Mattison UTICA, N. Y., December 22.—Hon. Orsamus B. Mattison, of this city, died to-day, aged 84 years. He was representative in Congress from this district in the Thirty-first, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Congresses. While in fourth and Thirty-fifth Congresses. While in Congress in 1858-87, Mr. Mattison was charged with deciaring that a large number of members of Congress were purchasable. The affair caused great excitement in Congress and throughout the country. A resolution ordering his expulsion was, offered in the House, but after a long and bitter dehate it was finally tabled, Before it could be called up again Mr. Mattison resigned his seat, about this time a number of Congressmen and other prominent persons in the National Hotel in Washington were poisoned. It was believed to be a pro-slavery plot to murder President Heckinridge. Mr. Mattison was one of those poisoned and came very near dying. In fact, his health was affected permanently. During the later years of his life he engaged in several disastrous business enterprises, and died comparatively poor.

Berjamin H. Day. already taken advantage of it or are about to do so. Scores of them shouldered their grip-sacks and took train to-day, and among them were nearly all of the Pennsylvania members who are not established here with their families. NEW YORK, December 22.-Benjamin H Day, 55 East Twenty-fifth street, of old age, in his soin year. He learned the trade of printer in the office of Samuel Bowles, father of the present publisher of the Springfield, Mass., Republican, After coming to New York he was a composition on the Bouning Post, Commercial Aftertier and other papers, and on Tuesday, Schlember 4, 1838, he issued from a 12 by 16 room on the ground floor of 222 William street the first copy of the Sun. He printed it himself, on a little hand press, capable of doing about three copies a minute.

Reed Myere' Funeral. The funeral services of the late Reed Myers, the THE CRITIC'S REVIEW.

Mark Twaln's Connection Yankon Misune -Vant Improvements Upon King Arthur's Time-Heroes of the Crusades, and Herole Deeds-Abbet's Battle Fleids of '61 -Within the Roomy's Lines, Witch Winnie and Other Books.

Mark Twain's Connecticut Yankse in King arthur's Court (Charles L. Webster & Co.) is a Christmas book which is not only worth looking at, but worth reading, And it is worth reading not only at Christmas time, but at any time between the 1st of January and the Sist of December. Mark Twain has never written nything better.

There are dull pages in the book-s few of

them. By some kind of fatality the nullest were selected out and printed by way of sample in the November Century. The choice showed a good deal more modesty than discretion. Everything in the book is better than the chaper which was given in the Century.

Mark (Twain would have published a better

book if some other Connecticut Yankee, with a finer sense of literary discrimination, could have gone over the proof-sheets with a bine pencil. The blue pencil would not have needed a second sharpening during the process of re-vision, for it would not have been called into very frequent use; but a good, vigorous line drawn here and there would have made a de-cided improvement. It is not likely that even a Connecticut Yankee would have talked quite so much entirely inane slang. Slang is a capital when it adds nothing to the force of what is said, and when it is dragged out into pages.

Nevertheless, here is a good book. A Connecticut Yankee, resident in East Hartford, and employed as superintendent in Colt's gun factory, gets a stout blow on the side of the bead from a club in the hands of a striker and

wakes up in the sixth century in King Ar-thur's Court. He finds a condition of things there which amazes him. The way in which people live, without windows, without chimneys, without a hundred things which we account as among the necessaries of life; the kind of clothes which people wear, the wretched tunics of the common folk, the ingeniously uncomfortable armor of the kinghts; the superstition everywhere prevalent; the cruelty, injustice, caste-spirit, ignorance of the principles of democracy and political economy—these things impress the Connecticut Yankee. He proceeds to introduce the ideas of the nineteenth century into the dull brains of the sixth. He builds factories, brings in all the cotemporary inventions, the telegraph, the telephone, powder and printing. He mounts Sir Launcelot on a bloycle. He turns the round table into a stock exchange. . He decorates the armor of the knights such unromantic legends as "Use Peterson's Prophylactic Tooth Brush-All the Go!" He casts old Merlin into the shade by his superior nineteenth century magic. The coruscations are very funny. The effect is as if one were to take Sir Thomas Malory's Morte d'Arthur and interleave it with pages from Andrew Car-negie's "Triumphant Democracy," with Mark Twain's notes along the margins. The con-trasts that are brought out between old and new are both amusing and instructive. The writer is careful to see that the instructive side shall not be overlooked. Mark Twain has a serious and worthy purpose in this book, to show what crowns and mitres really mean, and in what shape they survive men in our cotemporary life. Something ought to be said in praise of Mr. Beard's Illustrations. The work of the artist is in its way as good as the work of the writer. Some of these symbolic pictures preach very strong sermons indeed. Through-out the book the pictures illuminate and emphasize the text.

breast, bestrides a spirited horse upon the cover of Heroes of the Crusades (Lee & Shepard; J. R. Weldin & Co.) Amanda M. Douglas has contributed nothing new to the story of that invasion of the West upon the East. The knights are set forth in the conventional way. Godfrey is the saint and Richard of the Lion Heart is the hero which the schoolbooks pic-ture them. The dark side of the character of the crusades is lightly drawn. It is rather a

pity that some of the less known but no less picturesque heroes were not included. The crusade of the children might have made an incrusade of the children might have made an in-teresting chapter. That grim and indom-itable old Dandalo, the Doge, deserved more than a sentence or two. The finding of the holycross at Antioch was a picturesque incident - which mere passing allusion. It is not likely that one will get a coherent idea of the real moveme of the crusades from this book. Still, the chap ters are written in a plain, straightforward way. The volume is readable, and the illustrations, from pictures by Dore, are many and

The knights who figure in the pages of Heroes and Heroic Deeds (Franklin Printing Company) are such as would commend themselves even to a Connecticut Yankee. Robert Burns, and Robert Emmet, and George Washington are the "unperowned kings" of whom Mr. A. F. Downs, Treasurer of Fayette county, has chosen to write. The book is made up of addresses delivered before various audiences, and now for the first time collected. Mr. Downs writes with strong feeling of the relations between England and Ireland, reviewing step by step the progress of misgovernment.

Willis J. Abbot, in The Battle Fields of '61 (Dodd, Mead & Co.: H. Watts & Co.), tells the story of the war up to the end of the peninsula campaign. He divides the history of the Civil War into three eras. During the first era the South was only on the defensive. No man in gray set his foot on Northern soil. The era be gan with the bombardment of Sumter, and ended with the disasters of General McClelian. In the second era the South carried the war into the North. General Lee began it by his invasion of Maryland. The third era was the day of Confederate defeat. Its hero was General Grant. The first of these eras Mr. Abbot has chosen as the subject for this book. He has made graphic and interesting story of it. The uprising under John Brown, the election of Lincoin, the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the call for troops, the secession of the disaffected States, the battle of Bull Run, the surrender of Fort Donaldson, the battle of Shiloh, the capture of New Orleans, the retreat of McClellan are the turning points in the history. The book is bound in a cost of blue, with a broad sash of white and gold, and is illustrated with spirited pictures.

The Civil War is in that first stage o which Mr. Abbot writes, in Oliver Optic's Within the Enemy's Lines (Lee & Shepard; J. R. Weldin & Co.). The Confederate soldier R. Weldin & Co.). The Confederate soldier who ventures into the North "within the enemy's lines" has a pretty hard time of it, and his expedition ends ingloficusly in a mishap which retires him from the scene of stratagem and spoils. His cousin, who fights on the other side, has all manner of adventures "within the enemy's lines" in the South, captures prizes, outwits commanders, escapes from prison and covers himself with glory.

Several books for girls are waiting this week upon the critic's table. Witch Winnie (White k Allen; J. R. Weldin & Co.) is the story of a "King's Daughter." 'The scene is a boarding school, where the girls become aware of the dreadful condition of life in a tenement house dreadful condition of the life a creament bouse not far away, and take effective steps to remedy things. They start the Home of the Elder Brother, which seems to be the book name of a real and most useful institution, the Messiah Home for Little Children, at 4 Rotherford place, New York City. There is an interesting thread of story. The author is Elizabeth W. Chaupnes.

thread of story. The author is Elizabeth W. Chaudrey.

Maggie Bradford's Club (F. A. Stokes & Bro.: J. R. Weldin & Co.) found a good name in "Nicholas Nickieby," and called themselves the "Cheeryble Sisters." They lived in a boarding school; and a very good time they ad, writing poems and compositions, having their troubles and secrets and frolice. A mischievous monkey plays an interesting part in the book. The writer is Joanna H. Mathews.

Little Miss Weery's Sister (Lee & Shepard; J. R. Weldin & Co.) is a book for quite small children. The heroine is 12 years old. There is very little story in the book. It is simply a pleasant narrative of a little glri who went to school, and had her friends, and learned how to cook, and went zway on a visit to the country. The little maiden from "Shy Corners" who comes into the beginning of the book might, we think, have been made more of, and kept somewhat longer among the characters. kept somewhat longer among the characters. She is so interesting that her unexpected dis-appearance from the scene is rather a disap-pointment. The pictures in this book are

charmingly drawn.

The Girls and Boys of Marblehead (Uassel & Co.; J. H. Weldin & Co.) is a pretty book about the good times which a company of boys and girls had one summer in a splendid old place in the country. There is a picture of a plouic on the cover, and a great many more attractive pictures inside. A little Datch girl and a little Italian boy are members of the

merry group. The children tell stories, and make up verses and go off on various expeditions, and lave such a go off on various expeditions, and lave such a good time that their father lets them stay till Christmas. Mary D. Brue is the author.

The fruets and Adventures of Little Baron Trump (Loc & Shepard; J. R. Woldin & Co., cannot be called a book for girls only. It is for loys as well, and may perhaps, amuse some grown people also. The adventure of little Baron Trump and his wonderful dog Bulger are told by Ingersoil Lockwood, and illustrated by George Wharton Edwards. The Mountains of the Moon, and the Land of the Melodious Sueezers, the Turrors of Port No Mar's Port, the Country of the Wind Easter, the Abode of the Slow-Movers, the Dominions of the Man Hoppers, are among the scenes of remarkable adventure. Swift, Munchansen and Kobelias would each of them find some of his intellectual property here.

Some of the brightest sayings of the late Philip H. Welch have been gathered together, and intellectual property with a seathered together.

Some of the brightest sayings of the late Philip H. Welch have been cathered together, and interleaved with sketches by some of the artists whose genius turns in the direction of humor, and the resultant book is named Rata in Fun (Charles Scribner's Sona; if. Watte & Co.). The work of the artists is done as a labor of love, and the royalties on the sales will go to the widow and children of this genial writer who has brought smiles to the faces of all of us, and who has never written a word which the most captious could wish unwritten. Mr. Welch is best known by his late book, "The Tailor-Made Girl." The publishers have done all that clear type, good paper and attractive vovors can do to make these pleasant pages readable. The idea of this memorial volume was originated by Mr. W. A. Rogers.

### A ROPEFUL SITUATION.

The Condition of Trade Throughout the

Country Unusually Healthy. NEW YORK, December 22-Henry Clews Co. will say in their circular to-morrow: Taken as a whole, the situation is very generally felt to be a hopoful one. The general trade of the country is in a more than ordinarily healthy condition. There is, it is true, some little com plaint of backwardness in Western payments, which seems to be caused by the mild weather which seems to be caused by the mind weather checking the consumption of certain classes of products; and this has induced free shipments of currency to the interior this week; but these are only translent drawbacks to a very satisfactory condition of business the country over. The railroads par-ticipate in this benefit; for, with all, their rolling stock employed, there is the less induce ment to cut rates, and their not earnings should therefore be good. The increase of dividends by the Vanderbilt lines between New York and Chicago has produced a marked impression the estimate of railroad shares; for thou

on the estimate of railroad shares; for those being representative stocks, it is therefore argued that other dividend payers onght to show a like improvement. The resumption of dividends by the Missouri Pacific is also regarded as a good symptom and confirms the expectations referred to. Another very healthy feature in the situation is the almost entire absence of speculative enterprise.

While in Great Britain, the revival of trade is attended with an outbreak of speculative mania which suns into all kinds of wild and inflated ventures, we have here a very prosperous state of business with no conspicuous overdoing in any direction. The "trust" oraze is subsiding; the building of new railroads has almost ceased; the excitement over Southern development has settled into a careful investment movement in the hands of sober men of capital; and prices of both commodities and securities are ranging around a level that capital; and prices of both commodities and securities are ranging around a level that scarcely admits of any important reaction, but rather invites buying upon reasonable pros-

## A NOVEL BLUE ROOK.

Society Stirred Up Over a Proposed Directory of the Elite. PITTSFIELD, MASS., December 22,-Fashion able Pittsfield is all agog over the audacious enture of Dr. Gilman Colby, editor of a Bar An armored knight, with a cross upon his Harbor summer newspaper, who proposes to publish a blue book of the local "400." The

publish a blue bock of the local "400." The suggestion itself did not displease people so much as the manner of its execution.

The doctor introduced an unheard of innovation by which the financial ratings of the several hundred members of the social swim were to be affixed to their names, somewhat after the manner of Bracksreet's. A man or woman's money possessions were not to be designated by so many figures, but by means of a number of mysterious stars, daggers, asterisks, etc., with an explanatory index in the appendix. Proof sheets were sent through the mails to the persons concerned, with a request for corrections if neces-

Another source of trouble was the fact that the names of people having next to no social pretensions were to be in the book. The upshot of the matter has been a concerted movement o suppress the ambitious caterer to public curiosity, but exactly by what means remains The local press is full of letters from the so-called victims. Dr. Colby meanwhile calmly surveys the tempest in the social teapor, and contends that the liberty of the press shall not

# A MILLIONAIRE'S PALACE.

Young George W. Vanderbilt's Private Park

at Asheville, N. C. sheville (N. C.) Letter in Philadelphia Times, ] George W. Vanderbilt, the youngest of the sons of the late William H. Vanderbilt, is determined, in addition to his well-known palace n New York, to have the most magnificent private park and the lordlest country estate in America. To that end he has recently bought at a cost of \$310,000, nearly 5,000 acres lying just outside of this town—a tract of land fully one-third larger than your magnificent Fairmount Park, about one-third of the acreage of which lies under the

one-third of the acreage of which lies under the Schuylkill and the Wissahiekon. His land-scape gardener is already at work laying out and beautifying these extensive grounds at an expense of \$500,000 more. His architect is busy preparing the plans for a lordly piesaure house, like an old-style French chateau, which will cost an additional \$400.000.

His model stables, which will be scattered our the 5,000 acres, for the purpose of housing thousands of horses and cattle of the very bluest of blue bovine blood, will cost, it is said, at least \$200.000 more. So you see that the estimated cost already foots up to the magnificent sum of \$1,200,000. The shortest distance from the stately entrance gates to the still stateller mansion of the lord of this vast estate will be four miles by a magnificent roadway 60 feet wide, and it is said that there will be more than 50 miles of macadamized roads within the than 50 miles of macadamized roads within the

From the Chicage Inter Ocean.1 When someone mentioned the name of Boulanger in the presence of Henry M. Stanley, the explorer asked: "Who is Boulanger? I never heard of him before." This illustrates how brief a career some noted men may have. Stanley was in the wilds of Africa for less than three years, and in that time Boulanger rose from obscurity to the greatest rotoriety in France, and dropped back to his original obscurity again. Well might Stanley ask the

## TRI-STATE TRIFLES.

auestion.

THE sequel to a rather peopliar incident has just been brought to light in which a fish and an engagement ring were the principal actors, Some months ago a man living near Wellsville caught a large catfish in the Ohio river. On eatting it open a gold ring with an opal setting was found in its stomach with the initials M. S.

—F. D. on the inner ince of the band. By an accident this came to the notice of Mr. Frederick Dunham, of Springfield, Ill., and on examination he pronounced it the engagement ring which he had given his wife 12 years before and which she had lost on a Missouri river steamer a few years after their marriage.

SIXTY-FIVE tons of butter were shipped from Montgomery county to Liverpool by Samuel C. Freed recently.

FRANK BORHM, a Bethlehem restaurant keeper, weighing 245 pounds, waiked to Heller-town, four miles distant, in an hour and a quarter, on a wager.

A METROR of great illuminating power

passed over Forkaton, Wyoming county, on Thursday night, and in a minute thereafter a seavy report was heard, and the earth shock WILLIAM TIYUS, who died recently at the

Williamsport Almshouse, selected the stone and design for his tembstone 15 years ago and paid for it at the same time. A PRIVATE telephone between his office and his home, was recently put up by a merchant living in Wheeling. When his daughter put her ear to it the other day, she received a terrible shock. Not an electric shock, however. She simply heard her papa swearing at the office hom. THE CIVIL SERVICE SAFE.

farious Forms of Congressional Attack Upon It. Present and Prespective-Chendle's Sweeping Plan-The Scheme to Cut off Appropriations-Repeal the Other Alternative.

(PROM A STAYF CORRESPONDENT) To explain the cipher se batitute for the le of the alphabet in their order the non from 1 to 26. By this rule "six hundred WASHINGTON, December 22 - The most machinating of the machine politicians are fairly beside themselves with fary at the loyalty of so many of the more conservative ones too the civil service retorm laws, and are becoming sixty-six" becomes 10, 9, 24, 8, 21, 14, 4, 18, 5, 4, 1, 14, 4, 10, 9, 24, 20, 25, 19, 9, 24. The sum of these numerals is 294, and the figures 2, 9, 4 added make 15: the digits 1 and 5 added make the mysterious number 6. Now as to proofs of the cipher: Similarly spelled and added Robert E. Lee becomes 105, or 1 and 5-5; John Wilkes rather lunatic in their attempts to do something to break down the new institution before it beto break down the new institution before it becomes so strong as to defy all attacks. They
gnaw their tongues and bite their lips when
they dare not open their mouths, and only a
few of them includes in a public outbreak like
that of Cheadle, of Indiana, whose buil introduced the other day, is a subject of laughter Booth, 186, the sum of the numerals is 15, or 1 and 5, or 6 again; Southern slavery, 222, or 6; fire-eater, 87 (15, 6); Appointtox, 222, or 6; Confederate, 96 (15, 6); Davis cipher, 114 (6). Now, cannot Dixie figures tell Davis tales :
If we take the letter-figure X (eks) that fig-

even among the enemies of reform.

To those who know Cheadle, the bill will be no surprise. It is like the man, mure of a spectacle than of an idea. It would be infamous if To those who know Chesalle, the bill will be no surprise. It is like the man, more of a specific to we not so ridiculous. It is, in the first proposition to clean out all of the offest and best employes of the civil service, those who grow sets how to do the work they are as a gined to do, at the end of three years; the next best lot in filt years, and, everybody at the end of this years, and, everybody at the end of this years, and, everybody at the end of the nears. It is intended to abolish everybody in the civil service at the end of cach ten years, regardless of party, thus making no party responsible in an the "spoils system," which, in its worst phase, at least makes the party in power results than the "spoils system," which, in its worst phase, at least makes the party in power results than the "spoils system," which, in its worst phase, at least makes the party in power results that have been breached by the characterised as idiotic, for tunder it to perform its own ranks. It so completely leaks all the telements of common sense that it can only be characterised as idiotic, for tunder it to perform the tip in the conduct of the common sense that it can only be characterised as idiotic, for tunder it to perform the tip in the conduct of the conduct of the conduction of what here is the conduct of the conduct of the conduction of what here is the conduction of the conduction of what here is the conduction of the conduction of what here is good in the reformed civil service for the destruction of what there is good in the reformed civil service for the destruction of what there is good in the reformed civil service for the destruction of what there is good in the reformed civil service for the destruction of what there is good in the reformed civil service for the destruction of what there is good in the reformed civil service for the destruction of what here is good in the reformed civi

the expenses of the commission. This extraordinary plan is said to have the indorsement of such virtuous and astute Senators as Ingalls, Harris and Farwell. They would allow the law to stand on the statute books, would leave the commission a legal body, but would deprive the laws and the commission of means with which to make them operative from the public treasury. This is only exceeded in silly features by the Cheadle scheme. It does not cost much to pay for the work of the commission. Suppose, then, that an appropriation were refused and the law allowed to stand; enthusiastic civil service reformers could then club together, fornish the "sinews of war," pay out of their own pockets the expenses of the commission, and thus carry on all the work of reform under the present law in spite of its opponents. This would be a fine spectacle, would it not?

Another scheme is to bring about the appointment of commissioners who are opposed to the law in its letter and spirit, and who would, therefore, do everything in their power to vitiate it. This scheme has worked well to a partial extent in the past, but the appointment of the commission is a matter that is brought so close to the President that the latter is afraid to assume the responsibility of appointing a completely antagonistic commission. One-third of the commission must, under the law, be composed of a representative of the minority party, and, therefore, there is always the danger of this fraction using the disaffection of the majority for party capital. The result has been that, mainly, the work of the commission has honeally performed its duties in the interests of reform and in accord with the law.

The only other project worth speaking of is Hookstown district with the old Bullion district, in Venango county,

If, as your contributor in THE DISPATCH claims, gas is found in the anticitnals, why is not the oil found in the synclinals? Webster defines the word synclinal as "a trough or valley formed in the lower strats of the earth." This looks as reasonable at least as the peach-limb theory. There is no set of business men go it as blindly as the oil producers do. They have no settled or established basis or theory to guide them, eternally surveying degree lines, establishing belts and cross-belts, none of which ever pan out. They all seem to depend on those who go nosing around away in advance of any development, until some one of them the absolute repeal of the law. This plan has its advocates, some of them men of great ability and considerable influence, but they are few in number, and the number does not appear to be growing. From all I can gather from many conversations I have had with peli-ticians and members of Congress, I think the after the manner of Bradstreef's. A man or woman's money possessions were not to be designated by so many figures, but by means of a number of mysterious stars, daggers, asterisks, etc., with an explanatory index in the appendix. Proof sheets were sent through the mails to the persons concerned, with a request for corrections if necessary, and a polite reminder that copies of the blue-book were to be had at \$2 each, only by subscribers. Society was outraged at the idea of having private fortunes thus scandalously figurated in the face of the public and indignation meatings were in order. made the civil service more spoils for the politician. The favor and support of these voters is of more importance to the office seeker than any machinery he could construct by means of patronage. He would like his spoils in the form of patronage, but between them and the support of voters who are opposed to the spoils, he chooses the voters. He prefers the elective to the managing machinery.

posed to the spoils, he chooses the voters. He prefers the elective to the managing machinery.

How among honest and really patriotic people there can be anyswo opinions in regard to the best form of civil service I cannot conceive. The question is as simple as the multiplication table. The civil service must either be a machine for the necessary business of the Government or for the benefit of the office holders who are best in a position to control appointments. If the former, then there is but one sensible and safe plan for its establishment and operation, and that is to found it on purely business principles, to secure by the most thorough means the best available persons for the positions of the civil service, keep them there as long as they perform their duties in a perfectly satisfactory manner, and when they grow feeble in the service, having worn away their years, give them a pension that they may live in comfort while life lasts. This would avoid the payment of more than a comfortable salary during the period of usefulness; pensions for the aged would not, therefore, add to the expense of the public service, and employes would not be constantly scheming for increase of pay without increase of work.

While the friends of a stable and business like public service should be kept well informed of the insidious scheming of the ene-mies of the system, and meet them at every point, I think there is little or no danger of any backward step. The tendency is to go forward backward step. The tendency is to go forward and include more and more of the members of the service within the operation of the new law. There is no reason why chiefs of divinions and hedds of bureaus should not be made permanent, and every reason why they should. These officers, newly appointed, are here a year or two, at least, before they have any insight into the work of their divisions or bureaus and must depend on subordinates. They themselves admit that they are mainly useless, and that automata could fill the offices as well as they. For active work and for the improvethey. For active work and for the improvement of the service they only begin to become ment of the service they only begin to become useful at about the time their terms usually end. If this be true in regard to the higher class of offices, it is more emphatically true of the lesser ones, which must be depended on to keep up the work of the public service. Even with the changes now made—few in comparison with those of former years on the occasion of the change of administration—the public service is greatly disorganized, and the old, faithful, well-drilled servants are compelled to do the work for a long time of the new appointees, most of whom are political favorites and care for little but to draw their salaries. I know of, and am well acquainted with the working of, whole bureaus which would be theroughly disorganized at every change of administration were it not for the presence of two or three old comployes, drilled in the work for 20 or 30 years, who for a time after each change of administration are forced to take on their shoulders the responsibility of the results of the labor of a lot of raw and indifferent recruits.

The farther one investigates the operations of the public service, the more ope is convinced. labor of a lot of raw and indifferent recruits.

The farther one investigates the operations of the public service, the more one is convinced that there should be as few changes as possible, and if members of Congress would take the trouble to inform themselves of the needs of the service and suppress their desire to make use of it for ther personal benefit, the civil service law would be extended and made far more sweeping instead of being repealed.

E. W. L.

There is nothing I can offer That I have, and you have not;-

"I would be giving what was given, "I would be buying what was bout

Though methicks there is a jewel . Precious as the heavens above.

Precious as the heavens morning
I can give you Christmas morning
Only thus:—a brother's love.
HARRY N. GAITEER.

He begs leave to contradict a leading coal operator in regard to the miners being dissatu-fied. I'will say right here that there are TO MY SISTER. miners, and a great many of them, dissatisfied, and who have been from the first—men who were A CHRISTMAS PRESENT. You have wedded, dearest Jessie, And have drifted far away: opposed to the strike ever taking place, and many that voted for 3 cents, now admit that they would rather have continued at the old But before the gap grows wider I have just one word to say. What concerns us most is that the Kanawha

Christmas time, they say, is coming, And each friend or lover true Gives to each a kind remembrance; What concerns us most is that the Kanawhariver is increasing its output every year, while we are almost at a standard. We declare a strike every year for a much better rate than is being paid on the Kanawha. The result is that these men are steadily employed, while we perhaps get three or four months work a year. What the Kanawha miners cannot furnish is our share in supplying the Southern markets. The only way to remedy this is to work at rates that will ourrespond with the wages of those who mine coal for the same market; if not, we shall never better our condition.

COAL MINER. But what can I give to you? You have wealth and rarest heauty;-You have everything, and more, Though I know your heart turns kindly To the good old days of yore. Diamonds flash, bright as your eyes, And your face of sweet contentment Breathes of home beyond the skins.

COAL MINER. NEW ENGLAND, PA., December

To the Editor of The Dispatch: What can be done with the Cronin suspects in case a new trial is secured ? IGNORAMUS.

ALLEGERNY, December 21. [They can be convicted and sentenced to death. Beggs cannot be tried again, because he has been acquitted.] CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

-An Arcata, Cal., man, aged 85, led the altar last week a blushing bride of 55. —A Chicago man and his wife, who had jost their home by fire, walked all the way to Milwankee, where they obtained situations. -Recently compiled statistics show that

man was frozen into a pond the other night and was found in the morning with just her head out of the ice. The ice was broken duck freed, apparently none the worse night out.

-In 1842 what is now known as "influ-

enza" was known then as "Tyler's grip." was President of the United States and just after he vetoed the "United States bank bill" this spidemic swept over the country and was called "Tyler's grip." -One day last week Taylor Hedges, who

lives near Claysville, in Harrisco county, Ga, was tying a shock of fodder with a grapevine, when the vine snapped in twain and the piece he held in his hand penetrated his era, completely destroying the organ. His physician fears Hedges will die. -Moses Harris, of Charette Post, G. A. R., of Warrensburg, N. Y., is supposed to be the oldest Grand Army man in the State. Har-ris will be St years old this coming Christmas. He has seen 20 years of army life, and lought in four wars—Black Hawk, Seminole, herican, and the War of the Rebellion.

-Hezekiah Look, a wealthy stockman of Portland, Ore., was married to Miss Nottie McLarty at Columbus, Wis., a few days ago. Miss McLarty is the last of a large family, her parents and sisters having all died and left her lonely. Mr. Look first saw or heard of her one week ago. He is a widower with six grown children.

-A report comes from the lumber regions at Portage Lake, Me., that a huge panther came out in a clearing and walked around some men who were yarding logs. The men were much terrified, but kept perfectly quiet, and the beast disappeared without doing them any harm. It is very rarely now, it is said, that these animals are seen in Maine.

-It does not pay to fool with the Arizona journalist. The Tempe News had a delinquent advertiser. The editor man took cut the ad advertiser. The effor man took cut the ad and replaced it by the following: "This space was taken by —. He owes 5— for it, and won't pay. Look out for him." The adver-tiser got mad and obtained an injunction re-straining the publication, but a judge dis-solved the injunction.

-Journalism is looking up in China. There are now three newpapers published in There are now three newpapers published in that country, and there is a prospect that another one will soon be started. The prospectors are waiting until they can find out whether it will be a long-feit want. In China, by the way, if a paper publishes an untrue statement about any one, not only are the editors punished, but all the readers as well.

-Near Healdsburg, Cal., is a redwood tree 24 feet in diameter within the hollow of which a squatter and his family have taken up which a squatter and his family have taken up their abode. A few days ago a hunter was at-tracted to the spot by the sound of voices. To close the opening in the tree a rude door had been constructed of deerakins. Inside the tree benches and tables had been constructed of redwood bark fastened together by wooden

-At Henderson, Ky., the other day a countryman entered the drugstore of Unaries F. Kleiderer and called for some article, giving F. Richterer and called for some article, giving in exchange a piece of money which the proprietor of the store at the time supposed to be a 25 cent piece. On taking his cash out of the drawer he was struck with the oddity of the coin. An application of soap and water revealed a beautiful Roman gold coin bearing the date of 1058.

-Mr. C. W. Young, one of the principal merchants of Juneau, Alaska, was in Portland, Ore., the other day. Among other goods, he ordered a score or so of coffins, assorted sizes ordered a score or so of coffins, assorted sizes and of the most expensive description. He says the Indians in that section can have nothing too rich and elegant in the coffin line. The finest plush for covering and silver handles and stude thick bespangled over the coffic are what they want and will have if they put up their last dollar.

-A teacher in one of the Cincinnati Her clock in some manner went wrong and rooms were dismissed for duner she kept on teaching, entirely ignorant of time or anything else. She had charge of a lot of little folka and it was not until a number of auxious moth-ers appeared at the schoolroom door the sain discovered anything wrong. Then she learned that instead of it being 11 o'clock, as she sup-posed, it was in reality almost 1 o'clock.

-At Long Branch, Asbury Park and Ocean Grove layers of marl run far out inte the ocean. One of the beds contains many pieces of petrified wood, fossil teeth and casts pieces of petrified wood, fossil teeth and casts from clam shells. After all heavy stoums the fossils are thrown upon the heach. Within the last two months several remarkably fine fossil shark teeth have been found. One of them is perfect, more than four inches long and weighs a half a pound. Several fine specimens of fossil teeth of the malled storgeon and the devil fish have been secured by curiosity hun-

reap the reward that should fall to the lot of the poor fellow who struck the lead.

We remember well, when the Greece City pool commenced to play out, they drilled all around the place to find an outlet to the south or west, but all resulted in dusters. The theory was advanced that the belt extended no further in that direction: that settled it. Ferd Reiber, Esq., and Sheriff Hoffman each owned a farm anout one mile west of Renfrew's Mill. Either of these farms was too poor to raise rag weeds, but believing, as they did, that God never made anything in vain, they knew that the only salvation for their real estate was oil. So, gathering together all the money they could spare and all they could get their friends to invest, they succeeded in getting down a hole that developed into a three-barrel well. This opened up one of the very best oil fields in the State, known as the Thorn creek district, in line with the Greece City pool, and on the Martinsburg synclinal. In all probability, had it not been for the energy these two men displayed, the lower Butler county oil field would be lying as nature placed it.

If there is anything in this new theory it will sooner or later open up a gas and oil field 60 miles in length, connecting the Oil creek district with the Hookstown and Turkeyfooffields. We have been told that the land along this line has all been secured between Smith's Perry and the Beaver river in Lawrence county, Pa., and that there are quite a number of test wells to be drilled at once. Time will tell the results.

Evans City, December 20. -A novel idea has been suggested as a solution of a difficulty which has beset Congress for some time, in the matter of securing gress for some time, in the matter of securing reading clerks with penetrating voices that can be heard above the buzz and bubble of an exciting session. It is to employ lady readers. It is stated in advocacy of this plan that the quality of their voices to meet this need is shown in the practical experience of persons using telephones, in which their voices, pitched in a high key, can be heard distinctively, while the great gruff, soice of a man rumbles into the ear of the listener after a mass of confusion of sound.

Clear 1992 these have greatered from

-Since 1882 there have graduated from the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, England, six bright young Americans who have gland, six bright young Americans who have returned to this country to updertake the great problems in naval architecture that may come up in connection with the designing, building and remodeling of Government and merchant vessels. Five of these young men were educated abroad at the expense of the Government and are now in its service working out problems pertaining to the navy. The sixth went to Greenwich on his own account. He is now in business on his own hook, and bids fair to be as successful as the others. -A mystery of the Arctle regions may be

—A mystery of the Arctic regions may be cleared up next year, if the season is open. This mystery is: Where do the whales go when lee begins to set in along the Alaskan coast? Whalemen know they go eastward, and it is supposed they congregate about the mouth of the great Mackenzie river, but this and the region to the northeast of the river's mouth are practically unknown territory. The Pacific Steam Whaling Company, of San Francisco, has just purchased a strong steamer, which will be sent to the Arctic next spring with orders to push through to the mouth of the Mackenzie. The reason for this is that whalebone is rising in price, and this season's catch showed that the whales are rapidly decreasing in their usual feeding grounds.

THE LAUGHING PHILOSOPHERS.

Every community has its fools, and some A crossed woman is nearly as dangerous as a crossed electric wire, -Martha's Vincuard

A Massachusetts artisan has become so refined in his ideas that he calls himself a blackmythe, - Merchant Traveler, "I have an eyeout for the Maine chance

remarked a Representative a few days ago who was trying to catch Speaker Reed's attention.— New York World. "Hello, Brown, why on earth have you these plugs in your ears?"

'To, keep my wife from telling me what she's going to give me for Christmas. — Time.

That Christmas comes but once a year Will o'er hold tras, I fundly trusted, For certain 'ils that when 'ils here I get bankrupted, strapped and busted —New York Commercial Advert

Better Than He Thought .- Patient-That icine you gave me for my cold, doctor, cured pe entirely.

Dogor (in sürprise)—Did thi Well, hismed if I fon't believe I'll try is myself. I can't get rid of nine.—Time.

Blobbs-Getting rich out West, are you?

Dobbs—You bet I am.
"What are you doing?"
"Palating sign-posts with the word 'Chicago'
co, to put up in Illinois and show travelers where
they are when they are took."—Time. Two Harvard Gradustes,-Rev. Dr. Dis ord-Why, dear Jack, I am glad to see you. You

are looking so well. What have you been doing? Jack Scrages -Fitching for a League club at \$5,000 a year. What are you doing? Discord-Freaching for a chapel at \$600 a year.— Texas Sylings. WITT HE REJOICES.

Now the bald-headed man in his boarding-

Now the opin-news.

house bed
Only one present blessing can sen;
As the white snow sifts in on his paralyzed head,
He can say "There are no files on me."

— Town Siftings.